

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 2-9 based on certain informalities or depending from multiple dependent claims. The Applicant has amended the remaining claims to overcome these bases for rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claim 2 under § 112 for being indefinite. Applicant has also amended claim 2 to overcome this basis for rejection.

Finally, the Examiner rejected claim rejected claims 1 and 3 as anticipated by Hulsebos and claims 1 and 2 as anticipated by Lunz. As noted above, the Applicant has canceled claim 5, and incorporated the limitation from claim 5 into claim 1. Furthermore, the Applicant has also amended claim 1 to make clear that the joint is not simply one that may be incorporated into a parallel-kinematic machine, but is in fact part of a parallel-kinematic machine. Either of these changes, in Applicant's view, would make the subject matter of claim 1 patentably distinct.

GB 252,499 (Hulsebos) does not refer to nor teach a joint of a parallel kinematics machine. As noted by the Examiner, at best, Hulsebos teaches a joint that is potentially "capable" of being incorporated into a parallel-kinematic machine. Further, Hulsebos does not teach, as required by claim 1 as amended, that the wobbler includes an external bearing mounting surface or an external bearing surface on which the setting device is mounted. This external bearing mounting surface or an external bearing surface allows a third degree of freedom that cannot be achieved by the structure taught in Hulsebos. to the contrary, Hulsebos teaches the use of two knobs or pins (5,6) that are attached on opposite ends of the wobbler, and firmly connected to two different pistons or cylinders. As such, the structure in Hulsebos does not meet the limitations of claim 1 as amended or any claims that depend therefrom.

The second reference cited by the examiner, DE 19904702 A1 (Lunz) does teach one or more joints in a parallel kinematics machine. Such joints, as disclosed therein are not, however, of the kind claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. In total, three joints, 8,9,14 appear in the description. None of these meet the limitations of claim 1.

The first joint 8, which was referenced by the Examiner, connects the upper end of a telescopic strut with the support structure of the machine. The abstract to Lunz cited by the Examiner does not teach the use of a wobbler as a component of this joint. To the contrary, Figs. 2 and 5 teach that this joint 8 should be a cardan universal joint. A cardan universal joint is clearly not a wobbler as claimed; rather it has only two degrees of freedom.

The second joint 9 in Lunz is used to connect to a machine setting device. This joint is not, however, mentioned in the abstract. From Fig. 1 and Fig. 4 it appears that this joint may be a spherical ball joint. Regardless, however, Lunz does not teach or describe the use of a wobbler as joint 9.

The third joint 14 in Lunz, which is also not mentioned in the abstract, is used to connect the center arm to the support structure. Like joint 8, this joint is also constructed as cardan universal joint, as shown in Fig. 3. Once again, a cardan universal joint is not a wobbler as claimed.

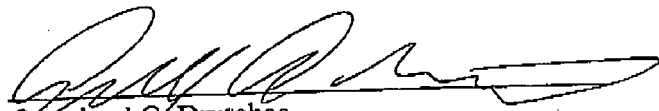
Finally, Lunz does not teach a wobbler including an external bearing mounted surface or an external bearing surface on which the setting device is mounted as claimed in claim 1 as amended. Nor does it teach a setting device mounted for rotation about a wobbler as claimed in claim 2.

As such, Lunz does not teach the invention claimed in claims 1 or 2, or any of the claims that depend therefrom.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims as amended. If there are any questions or comments regarding this Amendment or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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